

STATE SENATOR • MARK SCHAUER • 19TH DISTRICT

Schauer Press Release



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Wednesday, April 21, 2004

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SCHAUER PROPOSES “SOJOURNER TRUTH DAY” IN MICHIGAN

NOVEMBER 26TH WOULD BE DAY TO REMEMBER ACTIVIST’S CONTRIBUTION TO JUSTICE, EQUALITY

LANSING – State Senator Mark Schauer (D-Battle Creek) introduced legislation today that would dedicate November 26th as “Sojourner Truth Day” in Michigan. The bill, which was co-sponsored by a bi-partisan group of 25 Senators, recognizes the tireless advocacy of one of the nation’s foremost abolitionists and suffragists.

“A portrait of Sojourner Truth hangs in my office,” said Schauer. “Her presence reminds me that, though we have made great progress, the struggle for human rights must continue.”

Truth was born to slave parents in New York at the end of the eighteenth century. After escaping the bonds of slavery, she went on to travel the nation as a preacher and advocate for social and racial equality. Truth spoke out passionately for the rights of slaves and women, won a legal challenge after her son was illegally sold into slavery in Alabama, successfully lobbied Congress to prohibit segregation on trolley cars in D.C. and met with President Abraham Lincoln to discuss economic opportunities for newly-freed slaves.

After settling in Battle Creek in 1857, Truth became involved with the Freedman’s Relief Agency, initiating job placement efforts that matched newly-freed Blacks with employers in the area. Truth passed away at her home in Battle Creek on November 26, 1883.

“A day honoring the immeasurable contributions of Sojourner Truth is long overdue,” said Schauer. “With the strong support shown to this bill by my colleagues, I am hopeful we can act quickly to offer a legendary woman the recognition she deserves.”

Senate Bill 1158 has been referred to the Committee on Local, Urban and State Affairs.

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Schauer is the Senate Democratic Floor Leader. He represents the 19th Senate District, which includes all of Calhoun County and most of Jackson County.